

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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P.O. Box 1148  
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#### **2013 Kotzebue News Release #33**

#### **KOTZEBUE COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING OPENING**

Commercial salmon fishing will be open for 2 hours from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Monday, August 19 in the Kotzebue District.

The limited fishing time tonight is because of a lack of sufficient airplane capacity.

Catch during Sunday night's 3-hour opening was 9,706 chum salmon by 36 permit holders. The catch is continuing to stay above average for this late in the season. The commercial harvest to date is over 276,000 chum salmon and is a new record catch for the 2000s. Congratulations to Kotzebue fishermen and to Great Pacific Seafoods.

Our next target is to exceed the 1995 commercial harvest of nearly 291,000 chum salmon. If Kotzebue fishermen and Great Pacific Seafoods are able to beat the 1995 harvest, the 2013 harvest will be in the Top 10 of greatest salmon harvests in the 52-year history of the commercial fishery.

Kobuk River test fish catch index ranks second best in the 21-year project history, but is expected to exceed the record catch index of 1996 by the conclusion of today or tomorrow's test fishing drifts.

Continuing with short duration commercial fishing periods should not jeopardize subsistence opportunity or escapement.

If you have any questions concerning the fishery you can call the Kotzebue office at 442-3420, or the Commercial Fisheries office in Nome at 1-800-560-2271 or the buyer at 442-4192.